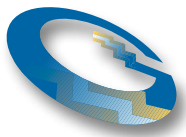




# Official Opening of Gracelands' National Service Centre

4 June 2009

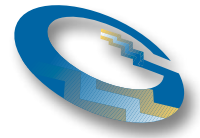


*“Grounded in the principles of occupational therapy I came to believe that what a person does during their day gives their lives value and purpose. To be of use to others is something we take for granted, yet for many disabled people this appears to be an unattainable goal.*

*If we can stand alongside the people who use our services, offering support and expertise to enable them to achieve their aspirations our own lives can also be fulfilled. What more can you ask for.*

*Graceland can make that possible and the community benefits as well.”*

**Robyn Klos**



THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2009  
1.00pm to 4.00pm

## OFFICIAL OPENING OF GRACELANDS' NATIONAL SERVICE CENTRE

48 Teasdale Street, Te Awamutu

1.30pm      Guests assemble on the Anzac Green

2.00pm      Governor General arrives

Whakatau - Des Tahatika (*Kaumatua*)

### **Speakers:**

Tom Barratt (*Chairperson, Board of Trustees*)

Sam Lewis (*Chairperson, Fundraising Committee*)

Doug Arcus (*Chair, DV Bryant Trust*)

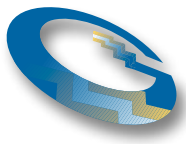
His Excellency, the Hon. Sir Anand Satyanand,  
Governor General of New Zealand

Unveiling of the plaque on the outside of the building

Tour of building

Afternoon Tea

Governor General departs



## ***Gracelands History***

Gracelands Trust was founded and developed by Robyn Klos, a trained Occupational Therapist, with the support of members of the local community and allied professionals in 1990. It grew out of partnership between IHC and Tokanui Hospital becoming a stand-alone charitable trust in September 1990. In May 1991 it opened its doors to 35 clients and 5 staff. Today it supports over 2000 people throughout the Midland Region of New Zealand.

In 1996 Gracelands moved to the Service Centre in Teasdale Street to accommodate the increasing number of clients and staff. Expansion of services into Hamilton, Taumarunui, partnerships with Whakamarama Marae and Buglass Farm, the opening of a mainstream recruitment agency and the purchase of Insight Learning since this time has seen significant growth for Gracelands.

## ***Purpose of Gracelands Group of Services***

*“We work with disabled and/or disadvantaged individuals to develop their skills and abilities to contribute to their communities” - **our Mission***

*“Our future success is sustained by growth, diversity and high performance”  
– **our Vision***

As a community disability support service, Gracelands takes a broad approach delivering to its mission. Its core business is to support disabled and disadvantaged people to maximize their individual potential through accessing mainstream and other employment opportunities, or inclusion into their local communities through undertaking voluntary work, leisure, recreational and skill enhancement activities. All Gracelands' services operate from a strong values base with a team of staff who are dedicated to implementing the “Gracelands' Way” which promotes a customer service ethic; defined through required service delivery behaviours of assurance, confidentiality, equality, reliability, “clients come first”, “nothing is too much trouble”, and staff acting as role models.

Gracelands is able to provide a service to any person who has a life altering impairment, illness or injury or would benefit from practical support to engage in the wider community and work environments. We are pan disability. A broad continuum of services is available for service users. The organisation demonstrates the importance of keeping up-to-date with current trends and thinking outside the square when considering our style of service provision.

## ***The Name***

The name Gracelands came from Paul Simon's LP released in 1986 and was suggested by Athol Hedges, the Manager of Tokanui Hospital at that time.



## ***Fundraising for the Service Centre***

In 2003 the Gracelands Board of Trustees committed to raising funds to rebuild the service centre on the footprint of the current building. Choosing to keep to the site in Teasdale Street proved to be a contentious issue as many believed that a 'greenfields' site would have been more cost effective with less barriers. Fortunately the Board saw the wisdom in retaining the high profile site in the centre of town, which allows ease of access for many service users who are dependent on others for transport. The centre of town provides the best possible location for people who need to develop relevant skills to be participants in the life of the community.

Fundraising took some time to gain traction and it was only in late 2006 that the project took off after the establishment of a fundraising committee. This committee undertook to raise the \$2 million needed to cover the costs associated with the project, including relocation of services during the rebuilding phase. Over the following two and a half years the committee have held many events, applied for grants from philanthropic trusts and made individual approaches to local community members and businesses.

Some of the events included:

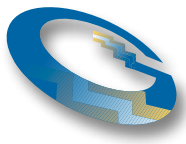
- Lavender Ladies Garden Party
- The fundraising launch in Te Awamutu
- A spectacular dinner and auction in Te Awamutu hosted by Jason Gunn
- Deli on the Corner in Cambridge Degustation Dinner
- After 5 event, hosted by the Mayor of Hamilton, Bob Simcock, with speakers world champion rowers Nathan Twaddle and George Bridgewater.
- A scrap metal drive by Te Awamutu Federated Farmers, co-ordinated by Malcolm Macpherson and his team
- A Finn Brothers' concert in July 2008, promoted by Dean and Robyn Taylor – a special event for the 500 fans that attended, this being the first time the brothers had played together in Te Awamutu in 24 years.
- Collections in conjunction with Waipa Racing Club and a street collection
- A broad range of fundraising activities and donations large and small from across the community significant in enabling the Fundraising Committee to almost reach its target.

Gracelands would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed in making the new building possible. Special thanks to the members of the Fundraising Committee for their dedication to the task at hand.

*Fundraising Committee members:*

Alison Hooker  
Elizabeth Wallace  
Robin Morriss  
Sam Lewis  
Ray Miller  
Malcolm Macpherson  
Brian Marcroft





## Major Donor

# DV BRYANT TRUST

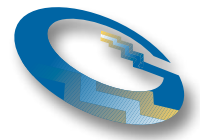
The DV Bryant Trust made a significant grant towards the Gracelands Service Centre project which enabled them to gain naming rights. The building is to be named the Dan Bryant House after the founder of the DV Bryant Trust.



The Bryant name is synonymous with this region. Daniel Vickery Bryant had his formative years growing up on the outskirts of Te Awamutu then went on to become a successful businessman and farmer. A risk taker, he became a well known local identity in his time and went on to make a significant contribution to the region. His childhood experiences led him to establish the Bryant Home for Convalescent Children in Raglan, which was the beginnings of his philanthropic work and the DV Bryant Trust was formed. The DV Bryant Trust has gone on to perpetuate the philanthropic approach taken by Dan Bryant who saw philanthropy as “just good business”. Gracelands is indebted to the DV Bryant Trust for their donation and feel privileged to have their service centre named after such a “colourful character” and humanitarian.

## Other Major Donors





## ***Building Committee***

A small building committee was formed in October 2007 comprising Royden Hooker, Sam Lewis, Robyn Klos, Martyn Parkes and Board member Alison Hooker. The committee's brief was to report to and provide advice to the Board regarding all building matters pertaining to the new service centre.

The parameters of the new premises were to provide a “no frills” functional building on the existing site to serve as headquarters for the Gracelands Group of Services. The new facilities would provide 1000 sqm of offices, workrooms and community services on two levels.

Gisler Architects were commissioned to prepare sketch plans and working drawings together with structural engineer Bob Wilson and various other consultants.

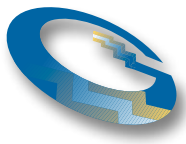
The committee negotiated a building contract with Livingstone Brothers Ltd.

The process of obtaining resource and building consents took considerably longer than expected but with the goodwill of the Waipa District Council all issues were resolved satisfactorily and the respective consents issued in August 2008. The demolition of the old building commenced early September 2008 with the completion of the new building early May 2009.

### *Our thanks to the Building Committee*

Royden Hooker, Sam Lewis, Alison Hooker, Robyn Klos, Martyn Parkes, Maggie Crossan





## ***Livingstone Brothers Ltd***

Livingstone attended the Gracelands redevelopment project launch and welcomed the opportunity to support Gracelands with the construction of the two storied redevelopment of their property at 48 Teasdale Street, Te Awamutu. As Livingstone is a Te Awamutu based company with a number of our current staff living in the community we relished the opportunity to become involved with this local project.

The original design and budget was completed by out of town architects. Livingstone through past involvement with community based projects realised the importance of obtaining “buy in” from local consultants and contractors alike. A team was established utilising Gisler Architects, Bob Wilson Engineering and Livingstone along with a number of local subcontractors to take the ownership. Overall the ‘buy in’ by the community ensured the consultants, main contractor and subcontractors alike worked effectively and efficiently as a team to ensure the project was delivered on time and to budget.

Livingstone completed value cost engineering exercises to ensure the final design met the specific use requirements of the client whilst maintaining budgets. This included supplier negotiations to ensure this community project was getting the best value for Graceland’s very hard earned dollars. Livingstone’s experience with projects requiring support and funding gave us the experience required to ensure the project ran as smoothly as possible for the Graceland’s clients, staff and stakeholders with as little disruption as possible to the neighbours and community from conception to completion.

Additional reviews were completed by Livingstone during the construction phase identifying opportunities to keep and re-use components of the existing building, alternate (and more cost efficient) methods to construct, whilst maintaining standards and other cost saving initiatives which added further value for the client. Livingstone also liaised closely with the Waipa District Council to ensure the building was fully compliant and to overcome any issues deriving from the connection between the old and the new.

Livingstone coordinated Project Control Group meetings to discuss project timelines, alternatives and potential opportunities for the redevelopment to improve, the project greatly benefited through precise, valuable and on-going input from the project team and client. This also ensured everyone was aware of expectations and outcomes throughout the project.

Gracelands redevelopment was an exciting project to be involved in and Livingstone are proud to have played a significant part in the process, for making this project become a reality for staff, clients and the community alike.

**Adele Wilson**  
*Project Manager*  
*Livingstone Brothers Ltd*



## ***Whakatauaki***

*Hutia te rito ote harakeke.*

*kei wheat e komako?*

*Ki mai koe ki ahau,*

*he aha te mea nui,*

*he aha te mea nui ote ao?*

*Maku hei ki atu*

*he tangata*

*he tangata*

*he tangata hei.*

*Haul out the heart of flax.*

*Where is the bellbird?*

*You say to me,*

*what is the important thing,*

*what is the important thing of the world?*

*For me I say*

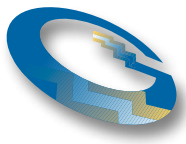
*the people*

*the people*

*the people.*

A building is nothing without the people within it and the activities that are performed. Gracelands “values” refer to having warm and welcoming environments, with hospitality integral to service delivery.

There was a concerted effort to make sure that the new building projects the organisation’s values; that it encourages people to enter, that it “feels good” and is a fun building to be in. The exterior colour scheme is based on the Gracelands “colours” with the interior reflecting the colour scheme of a Pat Hanly print “Vacation” and Gracelands’ favourite couch. The quotations on the walls reflect the organisation’s operational focus.



## *Services provided by Gracelands*

### **National Service Centre**

Gracelands' National Service Centre situated in Te Awamutu houses the Executive, the support function of IT, Human Resources, Accounts and Administration, the Client Pathway Team and Rehabilitation Services. Also based at the Centre is Local Linx and SKILL Programmes.

As the head office for Gracelands, whole of organisation team meetings, Board meetings and internal and external training takes place here.

### **Client Pathway Team**

This team manages every client's pathway through the organisation from referrals, access to service delivery, monitoring and exit. This team ensures the various services provided by Gracelands meet the client's and the funder's expectations.

### **Day Services**

- **Therapy Services.** These services offer therapeutic interventions to people with significant physical and/or intellectual disabilities.
- **K2 RIDSAS Services.** This is a specialist service supporting people who have an intellectual disability with mental health issues referred through the justice system.
- **SKILL Programmes.** These programmes offer clients personalised programmes designed around individual needs and developing life skills. The focus is on enhancing people's quality of life, through integration into community activities and training. Included are the farm and marae based programmes.

### **Employment Services**

- **Transition from School.** The transition programme assists school leavers in career planning, CV creation, job seeking and placement.
- **Supported Employment.** This service supports disabled and/or disadvantaged people into the open labour market with ongoing support.
- **Taumaranui.** This programme is based on an individual's work and life skills aspirations.
- **WORX.** This mental health service encourages and supports people into employment.

### **Rehabilitation Services**

An individualised and/or group facilitated specialist vocational service for people significantly disadvantaged by injury.

### **Social Enterprises**

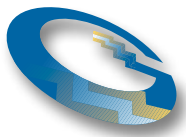
Gracelands operates a number of commercial activities which provide both employment opportunities for clients and the potential to generate a surplus which can be used to improve client service delivery.

### **Training Services**

Insight Learning – Private Training Establishment in Hamilton, Paeroa and New Plymouth.

Insight also provides tutor assisted Level 1, 2 and 3 training for both Gracelands staff and clients and other providers. It also delivers Tertiary Education Commission funded "Training Opportunity Programmes" (TOPS) employment related courses.





*“Thank you to each and every one of you who made this building possible.”*



Gracelands Group of Services  
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New Zealand  
[www.gracelands.org.nz](http://www.gracelands.org.nz)